

Tender for Longitudinal Study

Background

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) was established in July 2000 to advise the Government in relation to prevalence, prevention, treatment/rehabilitation and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland based on analysis of research findings and information available to it. The Committee is overseeing a three-year work programme on the extent, nature, causes and effects of drug use in Ireland. The Committee comprises representatives nominated from relevant agencies and sectors both statutory and non-statutory. The Committee operates under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and reports to the Minister of State with special responsibility for the National Drug Strategy. Further information can be obtained from the Department's website <http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie/> .

Commission

The NACD wishes to commission a national longitudinal study, designed to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment and other intervention strategies used in Ireland for Opiate Dependence Syndrome with adult opiate users (over 18 years old). It is envisaged that the study will be large scale with a comprehensive design based on the UK NTORS , looking in detail at the social and psychological characteristics of clients, as well as a wide range of treatment operational factors in relation to multiple measures of treatment outcome. It is expected that the instrument for assessing the above will also be modelled on the MAP instrument taking into consideration differing cultures and contexts. The research should be empirically based and explore the following in detail:

- Pre-treatment behaviours, problems and social circumstances of the cohort
- The operational characteristics of treatment programmes and interventions
- Provide economic cost-estimates for the problems associated with drug abuse among the cohort
- Explore the whole gambit of treatment and intervention strategies, including Health Promotion / Harm Reduction Programmes, Maintenance Programmes, Abstinence Programmes and Detoxification Programmes in a range of settings which includes the statutory, community and voluntary sectors.
- Involvement of community based programmes (local drug task force areas for example) is an essential part of this research
- Treatment and interventions for non-opiate drug use, including alcohol, should only be explored as part of cross/poly addiction.
- An appropriate sample size is expected with a minimum of 500 participants, with due consideration given to the potential number dropping out of the study

The Committee expects that an interim report will be presented after 12 months, followed by an update report after 24 months and a final report of findings completed after 36 months from commencement of the study. Contributions to a variety of reports will be expected together with the publication of articles in relevant professional journals based on outputs and expected /unexpected outcomes at various stages of the study.

Whilst it is not essential nor a requirement of the tender, collaboration is encouraged where it is likely to produce optimal use of expertise and resources in managing the Longitudinal Study. Applicants may be asked to present their proposals to the Sub-Committee on Treatment and Rehabilitation who are overseeing the project.

Tender requirements

Tenders submitted should include a detailed proposal of the following:


A timetable for work from project initiation to completion including project milestones and production of the final report;
Research model and implementation;
Number of days and costs per day or part thereof;
Technical and administrative costs to be defined;
Name of person(s) who will undertake the work;
Skills and experience of person(s) undertaking the work.

The final decision to award the contract will be based on criteria which will include the following:

Scientific Merits (including research model, feasibility and likely outputs);
Project Management (including management of the programme, timetable, suitability of the research team and the use of consultants);
Track Record (competence of proposers and previous work) and financial justification.

Closing Date: Friday 26th October 2001 no later than 5pm.

You will be required to sign an FOI declaration (see link below) and you must include an up to date tax clearance certificate with your submission.

 [link to Disclosure of Information under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 form](#)

Tender should be addressed to:

Mr. Pat O'Grady
Secretary
NACD
3rd Floor, Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4
Tel: (01)667 0760/765;
Fax: (01)667 0828;
Email: pat@nacd.ie;
Web: www.nacd.ie

NOTE: TENDER RETURNS SHOULD BE MARKED:

Ref: Ten/LgS